

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2579

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1470

EXDIS

EA PASS AMBASSADOR MARTIN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PFOR BS

SUBJECT: TRAN QUOC BUU TO VISIT WASHINGTON

1. AT A MEETING WITH TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT OF CVT, ON FEBRUARY 5, HE INFORMED LABATT THAT HE WAS QUITE WILLING TO MAKE ANOTHER VISIT TO THE US AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR HIM TO DO SO.

2. BUU HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY SENATOR JACKSON'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT SUPPORT FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM. BUU RECEIVED A VISIT LAST YEAR FROM SENATOR JACKSON'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, RICHARD PERLE, AT WHICH TIME BUU WAS REASSURED OF THE SENATOR'S GREAT CONCERN FOR THE SURVIVAL OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SENATOR JACKSON. BUU IS QUITE WILLING TO SEE OTHER PRO-LABOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BUT HOPES ARRANGEMENTS CAN IMPROVE ON THOSE DURING HIS 1974 VISIT. (ON THE LAST DAY OF HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY LEARNED THAT BUU HAD SEEN NO ONE ON THE HILL. HE PERSUADED BUU TO STAY OVER ONE MORE DAY SO THE AFL-CIO COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO SEE KEY PEOPLE ON THE HILL. ALTHOUGH BUU IS GRATEFUL FOR MEANY'S ASSISTANCE, HE WONDERS WHY IT TAKES AN ACT BY MEANY TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH PRO-LABOR MEMBERS ON THE HILL.)

3. BUU WILL BE RECEIVING A VISIT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 12 FROM LENNIE
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RODRIGO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC SOCIALISTS. AFTER

THAT, IT IS BUU'S PREDICTION THAT HE COULD ARRANGE TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 25. THE LENGTH OF HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE. RECOMMEND THAT ERNIE LEE, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR AFL-CIO, BE CONTACTED SOONEST AND THAT A PROPOSED PROGRAM BE PREPARED SO THAT BUU CAN MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO SPEND WHATEVER TIME IS NECESSARY IN WASHINGTON. HIS RETURN TO SAIGON WILL BE VIA EUROPE, WITH A STOP IN GERMANY TO MEET WITH THE DGB, AND A POSSIBLE STOP IN HELSINKI.
LEHMANN

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